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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

~~INTELLIGENCE REPORT~~

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE: 25X1A6a

SUBJECT Dissension within the SED Executive Committee

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SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN [REDACTED]

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1. An atmosphere of great tension was noted at the meetings of the SED Executive Committee in Berlin on 20 and 21 August 1947. There were repeated disagreements, and an outright clash occurred between Anton Ackermann and Wilhelm Koenen when the Executive Committee was reproached for not wholeheartedly opposing the Russians on the question of continued dismantlings and the critical food situation. The representatives of the State Executive Committees reported unanimously that the SED is in great disfavor in the Eastern Zone because of its failure to fulfill many of its promises. The Party Executive Committee then declared itself dissatisfied with the reports made by the State Executive Committees; that of the Berlin committee was branded by Otto Grotewohl as superficial, lacking in content, and not in keeping with the gravity of the problems discussed.
2. Various statements made at the meetings indicate that the unity between the SPD and the KPD is by no means complete. The central point of friction is Leipzig, where not only SPD members are accused of being at fault, but also old members of the KPD who do not approve of present trends.
3. At the meeting held on 20 August it was revealed that a commission made up of SED and FDGB members will investigate conditions in the uranium mines in the Erzgebirge.
4. The KPD of the western zones asked that the Neues Deutschland appear only twice each week in the West, and that it be distributed solely through the Communist Party, contending that the Western Powers would be more likely to tolerate a newspaper published twice a week than a daily newspaper. These requests were refused by the Executive Committee of the SED. The Neues Deutschland is sent daily to the western zones and is distributed by both the Communist Party and other agencies.

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REFERENCE [REDACTED]

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Class. CHANGED TO: 1S

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Next Review Date: 2008